Dysganus

Dysganus (dis-GANN-us) (meaning "rough enamel") is a dubious genus of ceratopsian dinosaur from the Campanian stage of the Late Cretaceous. Its fossil teeth were discovered by Edward Drinker Cope in the Judith River Formation in Montana.

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History

Four species have been assigned to *Dysganus*: *D. encaustus*, *D. bicarinatus*, *D. peiganus* and *D. haydenianus*. All are based solely on teeth and were described by Edward Drinker Cope in 1876. In 1907, John Bell Hatcher redescribed the teeth of *Dysganus*, and found that the genus was a *nomen dubium*. The teeth of *D. peiganus* were thought to be from a stegosaurian by Lull and Wright in 1942.[1]

The type specimens of each species consist of one to eight teeth, all being detached.

Classification

Cope originally classified *Dysganus* in Trachodontidae, a family of hadrosauroids now considered a junior synonym of the family Hadrosauridae.[2] In 1901, Franz Nopcsa von Felső-Szilvás assigned *Dysganus* to the Ceratopsia, either by reading Cope's original descriptions of the genus, or by Cope in 1890 indirectly suggesting that *Dysganus* was a ceratopsian rather than a "trachodontid". Later in 1907, Hatcher *et al.* republished Cope's original descriptions of *Dysganus* in their entirety and deduced that the holotype of *D. encaustus* included teeth of hadrosaurids (then trachodontids), and the teeth of ceratopsids[3].

Dysganus	
Temporal range: Campanian, 80–75 Ma	
Pre€ € O S D C P T J K PgN	
Scientific classification	
Kingdom:	Animalia
Phylum:	Chordata
Clade:	Dinosauria
Order:	†Ornithischia
Parvorder:	†Coronosauria
Superfamily:	†Ceratopsoidea
Family:	†Ceratopsidae
Genus:	†*Dysganus* Cope, 1876
Type species	
†***Dysganus encaustus*** (Cope, 1876)	
Species	
▪ †*D. encaustus* (Cope, 1876) ▪ †*D. bicarinatus* (Cope, 1876) ▪ †*D. peiganus* (Cope, 1876) ▪ †*D. haydenianus* (Cope, 1876)	

Paleoecology

All 4 species are known from the Judith River Formation. It lived alongside the dubious dinosaur genera *Palaeoscincus*, *Ceratops*, *Cionodon*, *Diclonius*, *Pteropelyx*, *Zapsalis*, *Deinodon*, *Aublysodon*, *Trachodon* and *Monoclonius*.[4]

References

1. Lull, R.S. & Wright, N.E. (1942). "Hadrosaurian Dinosaurs of North America". *Geological Society of America Special Papers*. **40**: 27–28.
2. Stanton, T.W.; Hatcher, J.B.; Knowlton, F.H. (1905). Walcott, C.D. (ed.). "Geology and Paleontology of the Judith River Beds: With a Chapter on Fossil Plants". *United States Geological Survey Bulletin*. **8** (157): 90.
3. Coombs, Walter P., and Peter M. Galton. “Dysganus, an Indeterminate Ceratopsian Dinosaur.” Journal of Paleontology, vol. 62, no. 5, 1988, pp. 818–821. JSTOR, JSTOR, www.jstor.org/stable/1305404.
4. Cope, E.D. (1879). Hayden, F.V. (ed.). "The Relations of the Horizons of Extinct Vertebrata". *United States Geological and Geographical Survey*. **5** (1): 37–38.

Further reading

- E. D. Cope. 1876. Descriptions of some vertebrate remains from the Fort Union Beds of Montana. Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia 28:248-261.

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